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P 20163-1891

DRAFT REPLY

E-562A

Dear Senator Pell:

The President has asked me to respond to your letter of October 5, cosigned by 36 of your Senate colleagues, urging the Administration to take all possible steps to locate Raoul Wallenberg and secure his return to freedom.

Along with Congress, the President and his Administration have taken every opportunity to express their strong concern about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. Following the ceremony at which the President signed the legislation which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American, the Department of State made the Soviet Government aware formally and officially of the continued dedication of the American people to ascertain the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate. To date, the Soviet Government has not provided us with a response, but we are continuing our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Wallenberg's fate. We shall not be satisfied until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in this case.

We have pressed this effort both on a bilateral basis and at international forums, such as the CSCE Review Conference in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In this regard, on February 25 our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Michael Novak, urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture, which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely, a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else, in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the

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The Honorable
Claiborne Pell,
United States Senate.

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discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time."

We have worked closely with the Government of Sweden to try to confirm reports that have come to light about Wallenberg. To date, we have been unable to confirm any of the reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive. We continue to cooperate fully with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man. As Ambassador Max Kampelman noted at a CSCE plenary session a year ago, the Wallenberg case is one that "will not go away;" the Soviet failure "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case" only serves to stimulate further interest. As has been our practice during the year since Raoul Wallenberg became an honorary American citizen, we will continue to raise the Wallenberg case at every appropriate opportunity, both publicly and in our diplomatic communications with the Soviet Union. We plan to press the issue of Raoul Wallenberg again when CSCE reconvenes this November in Madrid.

It is our hope that our continuing efforts to raise this issue publicly, and the resulting opprobrium, will eventually convince the Soviet authorities to provide a satisfactory answer to our questions about the fate of this remarkable man.

Sincerely,